

17 January 2024

Fall Preventions and Solutions

- **What are the current In-Patient Fall Prevention Solutions Used?**

The current falls prevention solutions used by Belfast Trust are as follows

- FallSafe, this is a regional quality improvement project implemented by the use of a care bundle. It enables staff to deliver evidence based care which focuses on falls prevention. It was commenced in BHSCT 2016
- FallSafe signage is displayed on wards to alert staff if a patient has a high risk of falling or for a patient who has fallen while in hospital. 'Please call, don't fall' signage is used to encourage the patient to use the call bell when requiring assistance.
- FallSafe Champions are ward/department staff who liaise between the FallSafe Co-ordinator and ward colleagues, patients and carers regarding any issues relating to falls.
- FallSafe awareness sessions are provided by the Fallsafe Coordinator to all members of the Multi-Disciplinary Team.
- The Trust has developed a 'Management and Prevention of Adult Inpatient Falls in a Hospital Setting' policy, the policy has been developed to raise and improve fall prevention awareness, provide guidance and support regarding in-patient falls to all staff who work within the Trust including those contracted through an agency.
- The Trust has developed a 'Safe Use of Bed Rail' policy. The aim of this policy is to ensure the safety of patients, improve awareness of falls and promote a culture of falls prevention and management being the responsibility of all staff.
- Enhanced Patient Care and Observation document (EPCO) is a tool which has been developed to be used for any adult in-patient requiring assessment and monitoring of distressed behaviours, which may increase risk of harm, including falls, to themselves and/or others.
- Low entry beds are available for use when required. When a patient has been assessed as not being suitable for the safe use of bedrails, staff can utilise a ultra-low profiling / floor entry bed.

- **What are the current In-Patient Fall Detection Solutions Used?**

Falls Assistive Technology is used by wards/departments. These include bed and chair sensor pads with wireless monitors.

- **What Bed Exit Solutions are currently in use for In-Patient Care?**

This information is not held centrally, each ward or department who have this equipment hold this information locally.

17 January 2024

- **If any fall prevention / detection solutions are used, how do they alert to a fall / potential fall?**

A mattress sensor or seat sensor pad are used by wards to help prevent patient falls. A mattress bed sensor pad is designed for use on top of the bed frame and is placed under the mattress. The patient is placed on top of it and it will trigger an alert to staff if a patient attempts to leave the bed as pressure is released from the pad, providing an audible and/or visual alert when triggered by the connected sensor pad. The 'Seat Sensor Pad' is for use on top of or under a seat cushion. The patient sits on the cushion and it will trigger an alert to staff when the patient stands and pressure is released from the pad.

- **How many falls (Per year) were recorded in the last 5 year?**

There were a total of 12154 falls over the past 5 years as follows

Year	Number of falls
2019	2091
2020	2525
2021	2483
2022	2596
2023	2459
Total	12154

- **How many, if any resulted in patient deaths?**

There were a total number of 19 deaths following falls in this time period

- **How many have resulted in litigation?**

There are currently 76 ongoing 'slip, trip and fall' claims

- **Are you currently following a fall prevention strategy?**

Falls prevention is part of the Belfast Trust Quality Improvement Plan

- **Which team is responsible for In-Patient fall prevention?**

The team responsible for supporting staff with falls prevention are the following
 Deputy Director of Nursing, Nursing and User Experience
 Deputy Medical Director, Risk and Governance
 Senior Manager Nursing, Patient Safety and Quality
 Lead Nurse, Patient Safety and Quality
 Fallsafe Coordinator